



# REFERENCE



# COLLECTIONS



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From, *Gazette*  
*Lewisburg Pa.*  
Date, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> 1893,

REGIMENTAL HISTORY.

Shortly after the reorganization of the Pennsylvania Reserves and the term of enlistment of the three months men, Colonel W. H. Irvin, of Lewisburg, a former captain in the Juniata guards, who served with distinction in the Mexican war and in the Logan guards in the three months service, was granted permission to raise a regiment under the three years call for three hundred thousand men by President Lincoln. Col. Irvin received his commission as colonel July 21, 1861, and during the intervening two months the colonel was quite active in endeavoring to secure the needed enlistment for the formation of the organization and by September 15th the necessary amount of men were secured and on the 18th day they were mustered into the state service at Camp Curtin with the following named field and staff officers: W. H. Irvin, Mifflin county, colonel; W. Brisbane, Luzerne county, lieutenant colonel; Thomas M. Hulings, Mifflin county, major; C. D. Smith, Mifflin county, adjutant; John D. Gray, Chester county, quartermaster; W. Earnshaw, Lancaster county, chaplain; W. H. Gobrecht, of Philadelphia, surgeon, and John F. Auber, Lancaster county, assistant surgeon, with the following named line officers: Co. A, Joseph M. Green, Centre county, Pa.; Co. B, George F. Smith, Chester county, Pa.; Co. C, John B. Miles, Huntingdon county; Co. D, James D. Campbell, Huntingdon county; Co. E, H. A. Zollinger, Mifflin county; Co. F, B. J. Sweeney, Chester county; Co. G, John Boal, Centre county; Co. H, Ralph L. McClay, Mifflin county; Co. I, Calvin DeWitt, Dauphin county; Co. K,

Mathias Neice, Mifflin county. It received the colors on the 22nd from Governor A. G. Curtin, at which time the colonel said, "that so long as he had an arm to wield a sword, or a man left to fight in its defence so long should it be free from the touch of the hands of its enemies." On the 22nd the regiment left for Washington, where they arrived on the morning of the 24th. An accident happened between York and Baltimore resulting in the death of several men and wounding of several others. The regiment was marched from Washington to near Lewinsville, Va., where it was employed during the winter months in drilling and on camp and picket duty and on the 24th day of October was mustered into the United States service at Camp Griffin, Va., by Capt. J. B. Ayres, of the regular army, where it lay until March 10th, when it moved forward with the army of the Potomac. During its four years service it participated in twenty-one engagements and several severe skirmishes and lost nearly four hundred men by death. On the 28th of November, 1863, the regiment was reorganized, the ten former companies being consolidated into four companies and four new companies were added, during which time many of the men of the former organization enlisted and were put into the new companies and eighteen of the supernumerary officers were discharged. In February, 1864, another new company (I) was recruited in Snyder county and was assigned to the regiment, making nine companies, after which the regiment marched with the army of the Potomac from the Wilderness to the surrender of Lee at Appomattox April 9, 1865.

*From, Free Press*

*Lewistown Pa.*

*Date, Sept 11 1851.*

### Historical Sketch of Lewistown.

At what date or by whom, the Juniata Valley was first traversed by the white man must be forever unrecorded; no one has left his impression of its primitive beauty, but we judge from the reluctance with which the Indian parted with this, his favorite hunting ground, that even to his untutored nature its blue mountains, limpid waters and lovely vales were a perpetual delight.

No history, however brief, of this our first century would be complete, without some reference to its original possessors.

"Ye say they all have passed away,  
That noble race and brave,  
That their light canoes have vanished  
From off the crested wave;  
That midst the forests where they roam  
There rings no hunter's shout,  
But their name is on your waters,  
Ye may not wash it out."

As long as the Kishacoquillas flows, the name of the chief who occupied the site of Lewistown with his twenty families and sixty braves will be perpetuated and may we not hope that its original Indian name, Obesson, may also go down in some enduring monument! This chief was of the Shawanese tribe and spoken of as rather better than the ordinary men of his tribe. He was a firm friend of Shikelinus, the father of Logan, and it was on a visit that Logan made to him, in company with his father, that he became charmed with the beautiful scenery and determined to make his home in this county. He was also the fast friend of Robert Buchanan, the thrifty trader who built his post close by the wigwam of his dusky friend on the South bank of the creek.

Although many splendid offers were made him to join the French he ever remained the faithful friend and ally of the English, declaring no earthly consideration could induce him to lift a hatchet against the sons of Onas (Penn). On his death in 1756 a letter of condolence, together with some substantial testimony of the love of the Government for his family, was forwarded by the hand of his friend Shikelinus. The letter was addressed to his sons and the writer, Robert H. Morris, Secretary of the Province, heartily condoles with them on the loss of their father, and says he dries his tears with theirs, but exhorts hem to wipe them away with the handkerchief he sends with the letter.

Previous to the year 1754 the white man had no legal right to a foot of ground West of the Susquehanna, but at a coun-

cil held at Albany with the Six Nations in this year, the territory which is now represented by nearly twelve counties, Mifflin being one of them, was sold to the Proprietary Government. This gave great offence to the Delaware Tribe, to whom they had previously given permission to hunt and fish in this region, and this action of the Six Nations was the last in the drama which precipitated the French and Indian War. A chain of forts became necessary for the protection of the settler, and one called Fort Granville was erected on the bank of the Juniata about a half mile west of its junction with the Kishacoquillas Creek, on a rising piece of ground near a lovely spring. A detachment of troops from Carlisle occupied this Fort in 1756, but in the absence of a part of this force to protect the settlers in Tuscarora Valley in gathering their harvest, it was attacked by a party of French and Indians, and after a stubborn and spirited resistance on the part of the troops and settlers, who had taken refuge therein, it was captured and all its inmates either cruelly murdered or carried away captive.

Robert Buchanan being warned by the friendly chief Kishacoquillas, had fled with his family to Carlisle. These atrocities of the Indians put an end to the rush of settlers for several years, but the fame of the beautiful valleys having gone abroad, the war whoop of the Indians had scarce died away when was heard the tread of the pioneer.

"The first low wash of waves where soon  
Should roll a human sea."

With these new settlers came Robert Buchanan with his family, with warrants for several hundred acres of land on both sides of the Kishacoquillas creek and began a new settlement. A description of the Long Narrows in 1788 makes them impossible, so that these early settlers must have made their way from Carlisle by Granville Gap, all this region being then included in Cumberland county. The great difficulty of reaching the county seat soon induced the settlers to petition for a new county organization which was granted in 1789. In this act of erection, the courts were then ordered to be held at the house then occupied by Arthur Buchanan until the court house should be built for Mifflin county.

Another section of this Act appoints six Trustees with full authority to purchase, take and receive by grant, bargain or otherwise land not exceeding 150 acres on the north side of the Juniata at its junction with the Kishacoquillas creek, the same to be laid out in regular town lots and from a sale of a part of these to erect a court house and prison on the public square or such other lot as may be reserved for this purpose. The title to this land could not be made at this time, but this did not delay the laying out of the town site and the erection of the building designated. A log building erected on the corner of Wayne and Market streets served the double purpose of Court House and Jail. During this time an incident occurred which was quite important as showing the turbulent spirit of the times and is related by all the historians of the period. One of the

Associate Judges appointed by the Governor having been a county lieutenant and while acting in this capacity, refused to commission two colonels elected by their regiments and which he had a right to do, so incensed the men that they resolved he should not enjoy his office. On the day appointed for the opening of the Courts, September, 1791, an armed force appeared, surrounded the court house, and for some time it seemed as if nothing could prevent blood-shed, but the firmness of Judge Armstrong averted this danger and the next day the law abiding citizens headed by Colonel McFarlane came to the rescue of the court and peace was restored.

The combined court house and prison proving unsatisfactory the Courts were held for several years in private dwellings and in 1795 the Trustees selected the centre of the public square as a site for the Court House, which was completed and used in 1798.

The picture of this building graces the medals struck for our Centennial and is a faithful representation as the writer of this remembers it. The lot on the corner of Brown and Water streets was set apart for the site of a meeting house and burial ground, but was only used for the latter purpose; one on Third street, for the use of a public school, and there was also another reservation for public purposes on the bank of the river. The inhabitants increased rapidly during the six years following the erection of the county and location of the county seat and in April, 1795, the Act incorporating the Borough of Lewistown was passed. It received its name from William Lewis, of Philadelphia, a member of the Legislature who had used his influence to have the county seat located here and may be the same person who purchased land in 1797 and built Hope Furnace; he is assessed in 1798 as an iron master and an owner of lands and a furnace. The young town began its corporate existence under most favorable circumstances, its location being one of the most beautiful in the State. On its southwest lay the Juniata whose graceful, sinuous curves follow the foot-hills of the Alleghenys and reflect from its bosom their beautiful shadows; on the southeast the Kishacoquillas creek not less lovely and leading into rich valleys where the finest of wheat is grown, and whose only outlet was this new borough; on the northwest a hill about 200 feet in height crowned to its summit with lovely trees and from which may be had the grandest view which ever gladdened the eye of a lover of nature. Before the close of the first decade flouring mills, saw mills, furnaces and many other industries had grown to so much importance that a market for these products must be sought and means of transportation became a great question. We find in the very earliest days that these were marketed by way of the river in a species of flat bottom boat or ark, but these could only be depended on at favorable stages of the water, and in 1791 a grant of 180 pounds was given for a road through the long Narrows, followed in 1807 by a charter for a turnpike through the same. Soon after this a company was organized to run a line of mail

stages; at first a weekly line and made its first trip in 1808, fare six cents a mile. About this time on the banks of the Kishacoquillas a line of warehouses was erected where grain and produce were stored and Water street began to be a busy mart.

During these years the education of the youth was not neglected. On the lot set apart for school purposes, a log building was erected and used until about 1809, when it was replaced by a stone one which continued in use for about three-quarters of a century. These schools were maintained by private subscription.

The religious teaching of the people was also provided for, the Presbyterian denomination being the first to occupy the field; the Methodist the second and in the next two decades these were reinforced by the Episcopal and Lutheran churches, all of whom procured sites and erected houses of worship. A charter was granted for the erection of the Academy, a postoffice established and newspapers published, only one copy of any paper prior to 1800 being known, that a small four column sheet published in 1800 called the Western Star. The Lewistown Gazette was established in 1811 under the name of the Juniata Gazette. The year 1829 was memorable for the opening of a new highway—the Pennsylvaniana Canal.

The first packet boat arrived here in October of that year and was given a public reception. The making of this canal added much to the prosperity of the town. Here was the only outlet for the rich agricultural and mineral products of this and adjoining counties. The boats carrying wheat and iron to Baltimore and Philadelphia brought in return goods for the home market.

The building of the canal necessitated the construction of the dam about two miles east of town, which increased the volume of the river at this point about four times, adding very much to its beauty and healthfulness and is the only vestige of this once great thoroughfare now remaining, and it is earnestly hoped that it may be preserved. A few hundred dollars judiciously expended now would accomplish this end, but neglected for a year the whole structure may be washed away and the chief attraction of this beautiful spot gone. The canal was not only a commercial factor, but early became a political one, and the reign of the mud boss became supreme. It was surprising how frequently it needed repairs during political campaigns. About this time the Academy building was erected and soon after the Catholic, United Presbyterian and Baptist churches were organized. The public school law was passed in 1834, but not without a vigorous protest on the part of some of the citizens, that the State was assuming too great a burden. They admitted that we were forty years behind New York and other states, but insisted that education was a luxury and we should wait until the canal and other works were paid for. The brick school building on Third street was erected four years after the passage of the law. A literary society called the Mifflin County Lyceum was established, a small circulating library

gathered, a room in the Academy building obtained and regular meetings held.

The grave and important subject of slavery also agitated the public mind, many slaves escaping from the border states reached the little town and claimed protection. In a paper dated June, 1834, an incident is related of the arrest of one Richard Barnes, who had been living here for eleven years, who was brought before the court as a fugitive slave. While the trial was progressing Richard slipped out of the court house, and took refuge in a well near the Methodist church, and clambering down, stood astride the water, with his feet resting on the wall for several hours, until assured of safety. There was also published in a work entitled "Slavery in the United States," a narrative of the life and adventures of Charles Ball, a black man who lived 40 years in Maryland, South Carolina and Georgia as a slave. This book was written by Isaac Fisher, a member of the Lewistown Bar, and published in the office of one of the local papers. It was widely read, helping to make the sentiment which culminated in the war of the Rebellion. A medical society was in existence in 1832—a prize of \$50 was awarded the same year to Dr. Andrew Keiser for the best essay on diseases of the chest.

Notwithstanding the fact that whiskey retailed for thirty cents a gallon, and many of the leading citizens were engaged in its manufacture or sale, a large and flourishing Temperance Society was organized in 1833. At its first meeting 224 names were enrolled as members, and the press of that day published the addresses of prominent men on the subject. Ten years after, the Washingtonian movement attracted many persons to join in this reform, and out of this movement grew the erection of a Temperance Hall on Wayne street, which was afterwards occupied as a public school. As early as 1826 an act was passed authorizing the town to introduce a sufficient supply of wholesome water for its use, works to be constructed within five years. Nothing being done under this act a private company was incorporated in 1838 and water introduced in 1841. The supply at the present time being insufficient and of poor quality, the company have purchased a mountain stream and it is said are making arrangements for the furnishing of a plentiful supply of pure soft water.

In 1842 the Apprentice's Literary Society was organized and purchased a frame building which stood upon the site of the present court house, which they removed to the corner now occupied by the residence of Mr. Hazlett. Here their library was collected and meetings held until they procured the building now occupied by them on Third street.

The first half of our century closed in a period of great financial depression. The iron interest was prostrated by the reduction in the tariff, and general business was disturbed by large failures in the grain trade. The new era was ushered in by stirring events, the war with Mexico in 1846 found us not wanting in patriotism and a company (the Juniata

Guards) was recruited here and took an honorable part in all the battles from Vera Cruz to the City of Mexico. Some of these heroes are with us to-day. The building and opening of the Penna. Railroad, which is such a marvel of engineering skill, brought us in quick touch with both the eastern and western seaboard and gave new life to trade and industry. New furnaces were built, old ones remodeled and relighted, bituminous coal took the place of charcoal, flouring mills and bridges were erected.

With the advent of the railroad came that new subtle agent, electricity, yet in its infancy, which has astonished the world with its wonderful power of transmitting sound, lighting, heating and as a motor. The coming woman, the myth which is so agitating the world, came quietly into the telegraph office here over forty years ago. Her gentle touch and quick ear soon interpreted the magic sounds and proved to the world her ability to tread new avenues and lose none of her womanly qualities.

The cosy little home she maintains and where she loves to come for rest and recuperation shows that she has lost none of her domestic character.

In the midst of peace and prosperity came the civil war and we were among the first to respond to the call of the nation for defenders. The long list of the silent dead speaks more eloquently for us than any words of mine. We emerged from this dark cloud proving to the world that a Republican form of government is not a failure.

The last quarter of a century does not properly belong to the historian and the limits of this paper will only allow a mention of a few of the later agencies of progress such as the introduction of gas, electric light, library association, the axe works, two new lines of railroad, together with many beneficial organizations which must be left for the future to record.

And now the pen of the historian has become that of the seer and we will look into the future. I see the river bank once more covered with noble willows and elms and between its protected sides it flows with a fuller current. Where the old furnaces stood is a children's playground with shaded walks and green-sward, where athletic games are being played by healthy, happy little ones. A gradual winding drive leads to the top of the hill to the north, on whose summit stands a building for the accommodation of the large crowds who come from all parts of the country to breathe the pure air, drink the sweet mountain water and enjoy the unrivaled scenery. Cottages with lovely grounds line all the hill sides. The mineral springs are walled and covered with trailing vines, their medicinal qualities known far and wide. The old Academy, now the High School, with an enlarged and higher curriculum, has become a favorite educational centre and attracts many new residents. A magnificent free library, the gift of a former resident, occupies one of the principal corners of the public square in which may be found the rooms of a historical society organized at the Centennial of 1895. On its shelves I see a volume

printed in No. 1, in which is a faithful record of the first century of the town. The vision is past, the century closed, and what shall the future tell? If we have learned our lesson right, there will be purer manhood, better laws, love to God and neighbor, and the wealth of the town will consist in its intelligent, healthy, happy sons and daughters.

From, *Free Press*

*Lewistown Pa.*

Date, 2/9/98

### A NOTED INDIAN'S GRAVE.

**Shikilemy's Bones Unearthed at Sunbury.**  
Was the Father of James Logan, the  
Noble Indian Character in Mifflin  
County's History.

The recent discovery of the buried remains of the famous Indian chief, Shikilemy, has attracted crowds to the grave at Sunbury. Shikilemy was one of the noted Indian chiefs who signed the William Penn treaty in 1735. He was a grand sachem of the Lenni Lenapes, and deputy governor appointed by the Iroquois upon their conquest of the Susquehanna Indians. The grave was found in the centre of the road that leads to the Northumberland bridge, about midway between the southern end of the bridge and the Hunter mansion.

The skeleton was in a good state of preservation and the skull was covered with a mass of long black hair, but when raised a little of the hair fell off and crumbled to dust. Lying on the rest of the Indian were a number of fine glass beads still in a semi circular form, but the deer thong that held them had rotted away. Beside the head was an empty bottle of peculiar shape. By the left hip, as if once carried in the pocket of the burial box, was an oval tobacco box of tin. It was slightly rusty but still worked

on its hinges. In it were a fishing line of fine twine in a state of sound preservation, some tobacco, an English cent and half cent bearing the head of George III. In the grave were also an old horse pistol whose stock had long since worn away, an iron tomahawk, a hunting knife of English make with a bone handle, several thin copper bracelets which were still around the bony wrist, steel buttons of English make, bells and dangles, three copper finger rings and one silver ring with the significant handclasp design.

The old chief lived in the village Shomoko, now Sunbury, many years, but his burial place was not known before. One of the coins in the grave is unmistakably a medal given in recognition of some valued service. It bore the head of the King, and on the reverse side was an Indian scene representing a warrior hunting a deer from behind the trunk of a tree. This is supposed to be significant of the English friendship and of the trade which the Indian in his turn agreed to engage in. Another significant discovery is that of a series of copper rings, one of which is designed to represent clasped hands.

The most convincing of all were the nails and hinges of a coffin, the only one ever discovered in an Indian burial ground, proving beyond reasonable doubt that it held the body of Chief Shikilemy, the only old warrior hereabouts who received a Christian burial, having accepted the Christian faith some years before his death. The two missionaries who converted him held a Christian burial service over his remains at the time of his burial in connection with the savage tribe rites and thus it was that Shikilemy was buried in a wooden coffin like his pale face brethren.

Vive King Shikilemy, as he was called, lived to an advanced old age,

...as in every sense a good Indian, a true representative of everything that is grand in Indian character, who never proved untrue to his word, never betrayed a white man and never condoned a crime.

In 1755 Shikilemy paid a visit to the old chief Kishacoquillas for the purpose of preventing the Indians of Mifflin county from committing depredations upon the white settlers as their brethren in other sections were doing, and brought with him his son James Logan, called after James Logan, secretary of the province, and who had kindly entertained his father at Philadelphia while the treaty was being signed. He and two other sons also called after Logan, received Christian baptism by the Moravian missionaries.

Shortly after this visit James Logan returned to the Kishacoquillas valley and built a cabin beside the spring, near Reedsville, that still bears his name, scorning to live in a wigwam as his ancestors had done. Here he lived alone, away from his tribe, and made his living by hunting, which he was passionately fond of, trading the spoils of the chase to the whites for those things he was in need of.

Judge Brown in speaking of Logan said: "James Reed, my brother and myself had wandered out of the valley in search of land, and finding it good were looking for springs. About a mile from this we started a bear, and separated to get a shot at him. In looking about I discovered a spring (Logan's) and being more rejoiced to find a spring than shoot a dozen bears I set my rifle against a bush and rushed down the bank, and laid down to drink. Upon putting my head down I saw reflected in the water on the other side the shadow of a tall Indian. I sprang to my rifle, when the Indian gave a yell, whether for peace or war was not just then sufficiently master of my faculties to determine, but

upon my seizing my rifle and facing him, he knocked up the pan of his gun, threw out the priming and extended his open palm to me in token of friendship. After putting down our guns we again met at the spring and shook hands. This was Logan, the best specimen of humanity I ever met with, either white or red."

Notwithstanding his frequent intercourse with the whites he could speak the English language but brokenly. No better friend of the early settlers in the valley lived than was Logan; true to his high sense of honor his friendship could be relied upon at all times and his loyalty to the provincial government remained firm and steadfast throughout the troublesome times between the government and their northern enemies, when bribes were offered the Indians that few could resist.

The Kishacoquillas valley soon attracted the attention of settlers for its peacefulness and beauty, and the log cabins and axes of those who reared them drove away deer and other game, spoiling the pastime and livelihood of Logan, so that he became restless and finally in 1771 he left his many friends and old acquaintances and went west, locating in the then wilds of southern Ohio, and Mifflin county and his old hunting grounds never saw Logan afterward.

Here he gathered his Indian relatives and admirers around him and built a village of log huts, living quietly and peacefully as their chief for several years, entertaining all travelers that visited his village with the air of hospitality that so became him until he was known in his new home as he had been in his eastern home, a true, honest and noble man; but his days of peacefulness were at an end, the whys were to know him in another world far more costly to them. We found Logan and a number of his followers

were on a hunting expedition a band of white men fell upon the village and mercilessly killed the remaining Indians. On the chief's return he found his village destroyed and relatives and friends lying cold in death about him. Burying the dead, among them his sister, he joined, with the remainder of his tribe, the Shawnee Indians then at war with the whites and from that on until the hostilities ceased Logan devoted all his cunning, power and eloquence among his red brethren to revenge his wrong, and how many men, women and children he himself killed will never be known, but certain it is that the whites had an enemy who knew not the word fear, educated to their customs and having a bitter wrong to revenge, who was an expert with the rifle and had all the savage instincts within him brought to life—truly a noble foe.

The English commander in charge of the forces against the Indians finally sent an invitation to all the chiefs allied against them to meet for the drafting and signing of a treaty, and the Indians having met with many reverses, accepted it. The treaty was held at Circleville, Ohio, and was largely attended by both sides, but Logan, who had received an invitation to attend, refused to go. Instead of going he sent an address to the council that made a deep and lasting impression on those who heard it and which as long as history lasts will keep our Chief Logan's name engraven on its pages as one of the noblest specimens of the Red men that ever lived. The address was purely Indian and characteristic of the man—"I appeal," says Logan, "to any white man to say if he ever entered Logan's cabin hungry, and he gave him not meat; if he came naked and cold, and I clothed him not. During the last bloody war, Logan remained idle in his cabin, an advocate of peace. Such

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was my love for the whites that my countrymen, as they passed, said, 'Logan is the friend of the whites.' I had thought of living among you, but for the injuries of one man. Captain Cressap, last spring in cold blood and unprovoked, murdered all the relations of Logan, not sparing even my women and children. There runs not one drop of my blood in any living creature. This called on me for revenge. I have sought it; I have killed many; I have fully glutted my vengeance. For my country I rejoice in the beams of peace. But do not harbor the thought that mine is the joy of fear. Logan never felt fear. He will not turn on his heel to save his life. Who is there to mourn for Logan? Not one!"

From this on Logan became remorseful and sullen, living the most of the time alone and holding no intercourse with any one until shortly before his death, when he slowly drifted back among the whites, a changed man, thought by many who seen him to have gone partially insane brooding over an unsatisfied revenge. Various accounts are given of his death, but the most authentic is that he was killed in a drunken bar room brawl near Miami, Ohio.



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